

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

HM-BCH-8

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Bridge No. L4013

other names/site number Black Hammer Township Stone-Arch Bridge

## 2. Location

street &amp; number Twp. Rd. 126 over Riceford Creek

☐ not for publication N/A

city, town Black Hammer Township

☒ vicinity Caledonia

state Minnesota

code MN

county Houston

code 055

zip code 55921

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☒ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
1	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Minnesota Masonry-Arch Highway Bridges

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 5/14/98

State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation, road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation, road-related (vehicular)

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Stone-arch bridge

foundation Stone, limestone

walls

roof

other Stone, limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located in a wooded rural area of Houston County about 8 miles west of the City of Caledonia, the structure is a single-span, stone-arch bridge that carries an unpaved east-west road over a branch of Riceford Creek.

Built of coursed-ashlar, buff-colored limestone, the bridge displays a semicircular arch with a 12-foot, 6-inch span. The limestone matches farmstead foundations in the general vicinity, strongly suggesting a local origin. The quarry, however, has not been identified. The voussoirs are well blocked and uniform, measuring 8 inches in width and 12 inches in height. Joints are about 1-inch thick. Except for a few crude patches of repointing, the mortar has almost completely disintegrated from the intrados joints. The arch, however, retains its shape without any signs of settling. The arch springs about 4 feet above grade from sharply defined impost ledges that extend outward from the intrados about 6 inches. Constructed on a slight skew, the bridge has an overall width of approximately 18 feet. Spandrel walls are continuous with slightly flared wing walls.

To protect the foundations from the scour, the streambed under the bridge has been paved in concrete. Photographs from the 1950s and 1960s show stone parapet walls with pipe-metal railings on both sides of the roadway. These features have been removed, leaving a ragged masonry line flush with the roadway. None of the alterations affects the bridge's most significant elements, which are the design of the impost ledges and the configuration of the arch itself.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Period of Significance

1915

Significant Dates

1915

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rasmussen, Alfred J., engineer

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Bridge No. L4013 embodies engineering significance in the context of Minnesota masonry-arch highway bridges of the period 1870 to 1945. Constructed in 1915, the structure is important as the only surviving, authenticated example of an early twentieth-century, state-designed, stone-arch bridge. Since its design is replicated in other counties, the bridge provides strong evidence that the Minnesota State Highway Commission (MHC) attempted to standardize stone-arch bridge construction in much the same way that it sought to create uniformity in the design of steel and concrete bridges.

As the historical context points out (see Section E, pp. 6-7), the MHC was officially organized in 1905 to improve the quality of roads and bridges in the state. To fulfill its responsibilities, the MHC assigned field engineers to assist county governments with highway projects, and prepared a series of standard bridge plans, including "plans for beam spans, plate girders, low trusses and high trusses, reinforced concrete slab and girder bridges." Although MHC reports do not mention a stone-arch plan, the commission's field engineers apparently had at their disposal a standard short-span design appropriate for the limestone region of southeastern Minnesota. In January 1915, for example, Houston County requested Alfred J. Rasmussen, the MHC engineer for that county, "to make a survey and draw plans" for a bridge in Section 20 (southwest quarter of northwest quarter) of Black Hammer Township. The county approved the plans a month later, and, although county records provide no further information on the project, the bridge presumably was built by the end of the summer.<sup>2</sup>

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Bridge No. L4013, Houston County, MN

Section number 8 Page 1

In its basic design, Bridge No. L4013 is a 12-foot-span, semicircular stone arch with distinctive, 6-inch-wide impost ledges, which probably served as supports for the arch centering. Although it is perhaps not surprising that a nearby bridge in Black Hammer Township (Bridge No. L4009) incorporates the same kind of construction, it is remarkable that the design repeats itself on early twentieth-century, rural bridges in Fillmore County (L4770) and Wabasha County (Bridge Nos. L1122, 93741). The construction history of these bridges is unknown, but it is unlikely that Rasmussen was their designer. MHC records indicate that he was assigned only to Fillmore County, which hired him away from the state to fill the newly created position of county engineer in the summer of 1915, reappointing him the next year. By 1920, Rasmussen had relocated to Lacrosse, Wisconsin where he established a private business as "engineer and contractor." Instead of a single designer, the geographic range of the "impost-ledge type" of stone-arch bridge suggests the existence of a state-sponsored standard plan, which would have been in keeping with the MHC's general policy toward bridge design.

## Notes

1. Minnesota State Highway Commission, Report of the State Highway Commission of Minnesota for 1914 (n. pub., 1915), p. 222.
2. Proceedings of the Houston County Board of Commissioners, January 6, February 13, 1915. Houston County Courthouse.
3. Proceedings, June 22, 1915, March 29, 1916; "Roster of Membership," The Bulletin of the Affiliated Engineering Societies of Minnesota, 5 (August 1920), 23.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Minnesota State Highway Commission. Report of the State Highway Commission of Minnesota for 1914. N. pub., 1915.

Proceedings of the Houston County Board of Commissioners, January 6, February 13, June 22, 1915; March 29, 1916. Houston County Courthouse.

"Roster of Membership." The Bulletin of the Affiliated Engineering Societies of Minnesota, 5 (August 1920), 18-24.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

### UTM References

A 

1	1	5
---	---	---

6	0	4	4	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	3	0	5	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D 

--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is defined by a rectangle measuring 15 feet east-west by 20 feet north-south, whose vertices coincide with the outside corners of the bridge's wing walls.

☐ See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

Based on field measurements, as well as measurements provided by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the boundaries enclose the bridge's superstructure and substructure, including wing walls.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey A. Hess, Historical Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date August 1988

street & number 305 Grain Exchange Building telephone 612-338-1987

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota zip code 55415



BRIDGE NO. L4013  
HOUSTON CO., MN  
PHOTO I.D. 09369 #10





BRIDGE NO. L 4013  
HOUSTON CO., MN  
PHOTO I.D. 09369#16

7671 III NE  
(BRATTSBERG)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF  
DEPARTMENT OF

767  
(VUC)

91° 45' 50.1000m E  
43° 37' 30"

502 R. 8 W. R. 7 W.

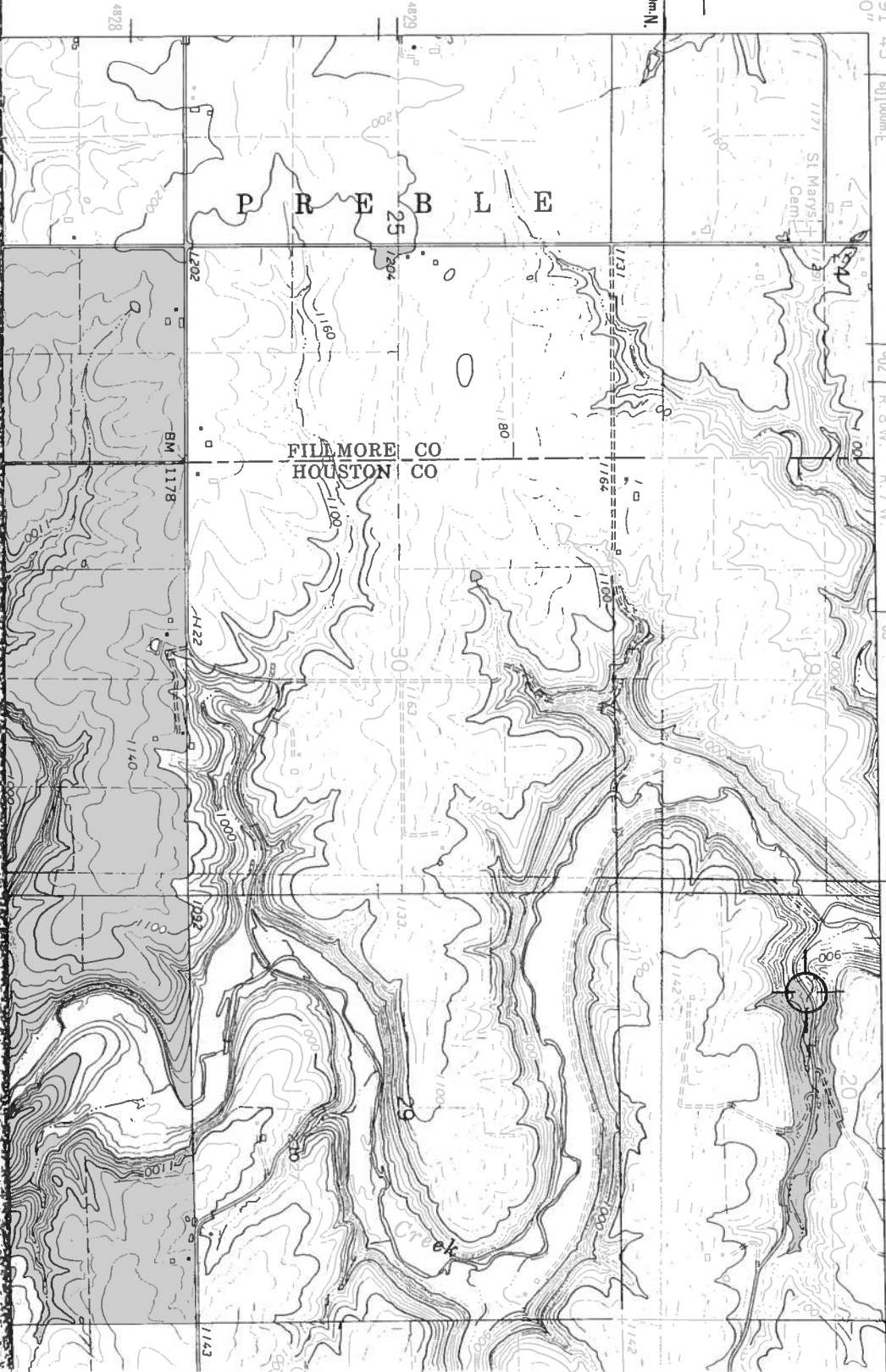
504 42° 30"

505

Bridge No. L4013  
15: 604430 : 4830550

HOUSTON CO.  
VIOLATION OF  
SILVERDALE

483000m N.







# MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

**Date:** Jan. 4, 1991  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Tim O'Donnell  
Asst. Information Officer  
(612) 296-4566

## Black Hammer Township Stone-Arch Bridge in Houston County Is Entered on the National Register of Historic Places

The Black Hammer Township Stone-Arch Bridge, also known as Bridge No. L4013, recently was entered on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge, which traverses Riceford Creek about 8 miles west of the city of Caledonia, was constructed in 1915. It is important as the only surviving, authenticated example of an early 20th-century, state-designed, stone-arch bridge. It is among 10 bridges throughout the state comprising a National Register multiple-property listing of "Minnesota Masonry-Arch Highway Bridges, 1870-1945."

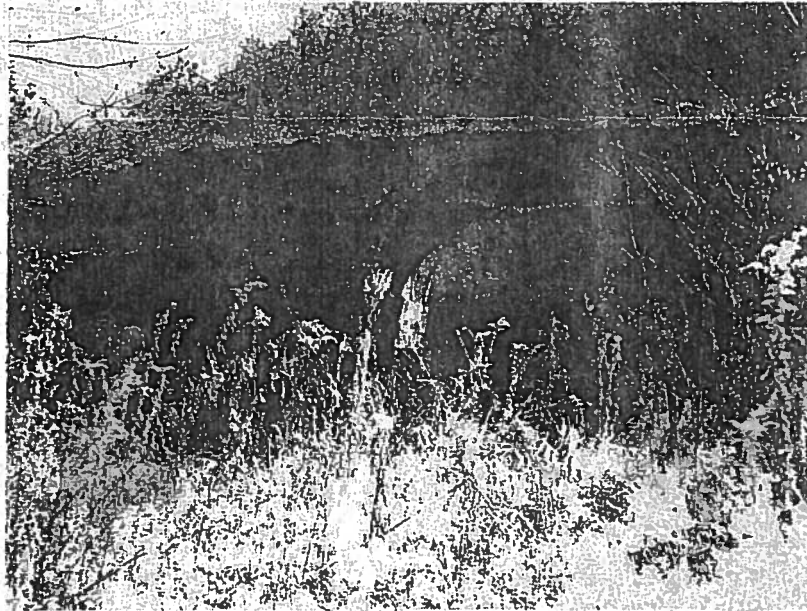
The National Register of Historic Places now contains 1,364 listings from Minnesota, representing more than 4,870 buildings, structures, sites and objects. Properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of their association with significant persons and events, because of their architectural or engineering significance, or because they contain important information about our history or prehistory. Listing on the National Register recognizes that properties are worthy of preservation. Certain properties also may be eligible for federal tax benefits and grant funds. The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service and is administered in Minnesota by the State Historic Preservation Office at the Minnesota Historical Society.

For information about nominating properties to the National Register or to learn more about historic preservation in Minnesota, contact the State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, MN 55111; phone (612) 726-1171.

END

**Note to editors:** For a copy of more background information on this property, contact Tim O'Donnell, Minnesota Historical Society, at (612) 296-4566.

## Black Hammer Township stone-arch bridge entered on National Register of Historic Places



*This Black Hammer Township stone-arch bridge recently was entered on the National Register of Historic Places.*

The Black Hammer Township Stone-Arch Bridge, also known as Bridge No. L4013, recently was entered on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge, which traverses Riceford Creek about eight miles west of the city of Caledonia, was constructed in 1915. It is important as the only surviving, authenticated example of an early 20th-century, state-designated, stone-arch bridge. It is among 10 bridges throughout the state comprising a National Register multiple-property listing of "Minnesota Masonary-Arch Highway Bridges, 1870 - 1945."

The National Register of Historic Places now contains 1,364 listings from Minnesota, representing more than 4,870 buildings, structures, sites and objects. Properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of their association with signifi-

cant persons and events, because of their architectural or engineering significance, or because they contain important information about our history or pre-history. Listing on the National Register recognizes that properties are worthy of preservation. Certain properties also may be eligible for federal tax benefits and grant funds. The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service and is administered in Minnesota by the State Historic Preservation Office at the Minnesota Historical Society.

For information about nominating properties to the National Register or to learn more about historic preservation in Minnesota, contact the State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, MN 55111; phone 612-726-1171.

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

WEEKLY LIST OF LISTED PROPERTIES  
7/02/90 THROUGH 7/06/90

JUL 13 1990

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City,  
Vicinity, Certification Date, Reference Number, NHL status

#### GEORGIA

Rockdale County  
Conyers Residential Historic District  
NW of the central business district, roughly along Main St.,  
Milstead Ave., and Railroad St.  
Conyers 7/05/90 90000947

#### MARYLAND

Montgomery County  
Thomas and Company Cannery  
Jct. of W. Diamond and M. Frederick Aves.  
Gaithersburg 7/05/90 90001025

Washington County  
Hagerstown City Park Historic District  
Roughly bounded by W. Howard St., Guilford Ave., Memorial, S  
Walnut St., and the Norfolk & Western RR tracks  
Hagerstown 7/05/90 90001017

#### MINNESOTA

Houston County  
Bridge No. 14013  
Minnesota Masonry-Arch Highway Bridges NPS  
Twp. Rd. 126 over Riceford Cr.  
Spring Grove vicinity 7/05/90 90000976

Ramsey County  
Colorado Street Bridge  
Minnesota Masonry-Arch Highway Bridges NPS  
E side of S. Wabasha St. near Terrace Park  
St. Paul 7/05/90 90000977

Winona County  
Bridge No. 11409  
Minnesota Masonry-Arch Highway Bridges NPS  
Twp. Rd. 62 over Garvin Brook  
Winona vicinity 7/05/90 90000978

*new listings*

#### MISSOURI

Franklin County  
Pannorst Feed Store  
465 St. Clair St.  
St. Clair 7/05/90 90001023

St. Charles County  
Wentzville Tobacco Company Factory  
406 Elm St.  
Wentzville 7/05/90 90001024

#### NEBRASKA

Boyd County  
White Horse Ranch  
SE of Naper between the Keya Paha and Niobrara Rivers  
Naper vicinity 7/05/90 90000984

Dawes County  
Dawes County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
S. Main St. between 4th and 5th Sts.  
Chadron 7/05/90 90000975

Franklin County  
Franklin County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
15th Ave. between N and O Sts.  
Franklin 7/05/90 90000962

Gosper County  
Gosper County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
507 Smith Ave.  
Elwood 7/05/90 90000961

Holt County  
Holt County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
N. 4th St. between E. Clay and Benton Sts.  
O'Neill 7/05/90 90000974

Kinball County  
Kinball County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
114 E. 3rd St.  
Kinball 7/05/90 90000973

Knox County  
Knox County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
Main St. between Brazile and Bridge Sts.  
Center 7/05/90 90000972

#### NEBRASKA

McPherson County  
McPherson County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
Jct. of 6th and Anderson Sts.  
Tryon 7/05/90 90000970

Perkins County  
Perkins County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
Lincoln St. between 2nd and 3rd Sts.  
Grant 7/05/90 90000969

Red Willow County  
Red Willow County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
NW corner Morris Ave. and E. E St.  
McCook 7/05/90 90000966

Richardson County  
Richardson County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
Courthouse Square  
Falls City 7/05/90 90000965

Rock County  
Rock County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
State St. between Caroline and Martha Sts.  
Bassett 7/05/90 90000968

Saline County  
Saline County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
215 S. Court  
Walber 7/05/90 90000967

Sarpy County  
Third Sarpy County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
3rd St. between Washington and Jefferson Sts.  
Papillon 7/05/90 90000964

Sioux County  
Sioux County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
NE corner of Main and 3rd Sts.  
Harrison 7/05/90 90000963

Thomas County  
Thomas County Courthouse  
County Courthouses of Nebraska NPS  
503 Main St.  
Thedford 7/05/90 90000971

#### NEW MEXICO

Sandoval County  
San Jose de las Muertas  
Address Restricted  
Placitas vicinity 7/05/90 90001029

Taos County  
Hennings, E. Martin, House and Studio Historic District  
SE corner of Dolan St. and Kit Carson Rd.  
Taos 7/05/90 90001028

#### NORTH CAROLINA

Catauba County  
Bolick Historic District  
Catauba County NPS  
First Ave. S. between US 64/70 and 12th St.  
Conover 7/05/90 90001032

Boat--Burris House  
Catauba County NPS  
Jct. of SR 1149 and SR 1154  
Newton vicinity 7/05/90 90001033

Foil--Cline House  
Catauba County NPS  
406 S. Main Ave.  
Newton 7/05/90 90001034

Grace Reformed Church  
Catauba County NPS  
201-211 S. Main Ave.  
Newton 7/05/90 90001035

Rock Barn Farm  
Catauba County NPS  
W side of SR 1709, .4 mi. W of jct. with SR 1715  
Claremont vicinity 7/05/90 90001036

Self--Trott--Bickett House  
Catauba County NPS  
331 S. College Ave.  
Newton 7/05/90 90001037

Wake County  
Wyatt, Leonidas R., House  
107 S. Bloodworth St.  
Raleigh 7/05/90 90001030

#### OHIO

Delaware County  
O'Shaughnessy Dam and Bridge  
Co. Rd. 126 between OH 257 and 745  
Shawnee Hills vicinity 7/05/90 90000482



# MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1849

Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, MN 55111 • (612) 726-1171

November 6, 1990

Mr. Norman Hoscheit, Chair  
Houston County Board of Commissioners  
Houston County Courthouse  
304 South Marshall  
Caledonia, Minnesota 55921

Dear Mr. Hoscheit:

RE: Bridge No. L-4013 (Black Hammer Township Stone-Arch Bridge),  
Township Road 126 over Riceford Creek, Black Hammer Township,  
(vicinity of Caledonia), Houston County

The above property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register, as you know, is a listing of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects considered to be worthy of preservation. An information sheet describing the program is enclosed.

Your objection to this nomination was received prior to the State Review Board Meeting. Please note that federal regulations (36 CFR 60.6) which prohibit the listing of a property when the owner has objected to listing apply only to private property. In this case, your objection was considered during the review process. However, because the property was found to be significant under National Register criteria, and because it is public property, it was submitted for listing in accordance with the procedures. If you have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact Dennis Gimmestad, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, at the above address and telephone number.

We urge that you consider the significance of this property as you plan for its future treatment; please let us know if we can be of assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,

4 Nina M. Archabal  
State Historic Preservation Officer

encl: Copy of Nomination, National Register Program Sheet

cc: Alden Solum, Chair, Black Hammer Township, Route 2, Box 91,  
Spring Grove, MN 55974  
Mr. Raymond Halzworth, President, Houston County Historical Society,  
Brownsville, MN 55919  
Mr. Jeff Hess, Hess, Roise, and Co., 710 Grain Exchange Building,  
Minneapolis, MN 55415